

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE: TECHNICAL INFORMATION

### AQA CERTIFICATE IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Course Title	Code	Awarding Body
GCSE English Language	8700	AQA

UNIT	Method of Assessment	Weighting
Paper 1 - Reading: Fiction - Descriptive or narrative writing	Examination: 1 hour 45 minutes	50%
Paper 2 - Reading: Non-Fiction - Writing to present a viewpoint	Examination: 1 hour 45 minutes	50%
Speaking and Listening	Presentation (Non-exam assessment)	0% Separate endorsement

## ENGLISH LITERATURE: TECHNICAL INFORMATION

### AQA CERTIFICATE IN ENGLISH LITERATURE

Course Title	Code	Awarding Body
GCSE English Literature	8702	AQA

UNIT	Method of Assessment	Weighting
Paper 1 - Shakespeare - Nineteenth-century novel	Examination: 1 hour 45 minutes Closed Book	40%
Paper 2 - Modern prose or drama text - Poetry anthology - Unseen poetry	Examination: 2 hours 15 minutes Closed Book	60%

## **ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

### **Background Knowledge and Qualifications**

Your study of English Language in Years 10 and 11 builds directly upon the knowledge and skills you have acquired in Years 7, 8 and 9.

### **Course Description**

You will study a series of units designed to develop your speaking and listening, reading and writing skills in integrated and challenging ways. Your teacher will focus on the development of your skills with the aim of bringing out the best in you, spending time on areas where more experience and practice is needed, and moving at a pace where competency is high.

You will read and respond to a wide range of texts produced for varying audiences and purposes, in differing contexts. These will include media and non-fiction texts, and literary non-fiction texts (such as autobiography, biography, letters, memoir, travel/adventure writing). You will learn how best to analyse and annotate these texts. You will develop and practise the skills of writing in description, narrative and opinion writing. You will talk about your work and undertake a range of speaking and listening activities, designed to build your confidence and skill, particularly when discussing and presenting.

At the end of the course there are two examination papers to test your reading and writing skills. Each lasts 1 hour and 45 minutes. On Paper 1, you will read and then respond in detail to a single fiction text, completing a series of questions. You will then complete one task which tests your ability to write description or narrative. On Paper 2, you will read and respond to two non-fiction texts, completing a series of questions. You will then complete one writing task which tests your ability to argue a point of view.

This is a reformed qualification, and at the end of the course you will be awarded a final grade on a scale of 1-9. This grade will be based on your performance in the two examinations.

Your speaking and listening skills will also be tested over the course. You will give a presentation which your teacher will mark. However, this assessment will not contribute to your overall grade. Your attainment will be reported separately, with a different grading system.

### **Use of Course and Qualification**

English Language is a core qualification and is a requirement for entry into all university and college courses and many areas of employment. In addition, the achievement of a good grade indicates that you have the important transferable skills necessary for success in many A-level subjects and university courses.

## **ENGLISH LITERATURE**

### **Background Knowledge and Qualifications**

Your study of English Literature in Years 10 and 11 builds directly upon the knowledge and skills you have acquired in Years 7, 8 and 9.

### **Course Description**

You will study a rich variety of literary texts designed to develop, in integrated and challenging ways, your abilities to appreciate and evaluate the importance of texts, and the ways in which writers construct meanings for their readers. The focus of this course is on the development of skills of interpretation, analysis and argument, encouraging you to develop a critical engagement with your reading and with plays in performance. You will be encouraged to build your own responses, to discuss these and to support them with textual reference; you will be helped to interpret and to explore and analyse the effects of writers' particular choices and decisions, evaluating the impact of these on readers.

You will study poetry, prose and drama, from different contexts; both modern, contemporary texts, and those considered part of the English Literary Heritage.

At the end of the course there are two examination papers designed to test your ability to respond to literary texts. Paper 1 lasts 1 hour 45 minutes. In Section A, you will answer questions on a Shakespeare play you have studied: you write in detail about an extract from the play, and then about the play as a whole. In Section B, you answer one essay question on the nineteenth-century novel you have studied. Paper 2 lasts 2 hours and 15 minutes. In Section A, you answer one essay question on a modern novel or play you have studied. In Section B you will answer a question where you compare two poems from the Cluster of poems in the AQA Anthology you have studied. In Section C, you will answer a question on an unseen poem, and a second question where you compare this poem to a further unseen poem.

This is a reformed qualification, and at the end of the course you will be awarded a final grade on a scale of 1-9. This grade will be based on your performance in the two examinations.

### **Use of Course and Qualification**

Good levels of achievement in this course means you have a high level of competence in both reading and writing skills which will be invaluable assets to a range of A level subjects and to employment and courses in Higher Education. The study of English Literature also involves using many transferable skills, such as discussion and the ability to work in a team.